

Whereas, on August 13, 2008, Katie Hoff set a record time for athletes from the United States of 1:55.78 and finished fourth in the women's 200-meter freestyle event;

Whereas, on August 14, 2008, Allison Schmitt of Canton, Michigan, Caroline Burckle of Louisville, Kentucky, Natalie Coughlin, and Katie Hoff set a record time for athletes from the United States of 7:46.33 and won the bronze medal in the women's 800-meter freestyle relay event;

Whereas, on August 14, 2008, Jason Lezak tied Cesar Cielo of Brazil for the bronze medal in the men's 100-meter freestyle event;

Whereas, on August 15, 2008, Michael Phelps set a world-record time of 1:54.23 and won the gold medal in the men's 200-meter individual medley event, and Ryan Lochte won the bronze medal in the same event;

Whereas, on August 15, 2008, Ryan Lochte set a world-record time of 1:53.94 and won the gold medal in the men's 200-meter backstroke event, and Aaron Peirsol won the silver medal in the same event;

Whereas, on August 15, 2008, Rebecca Soni set a world-record time of 2:20.22 and won the gold medal in the women's 200-meter breaststroke event;

Whereas, on August 15, 2008, Natalie Coughlin tied the record time for athletes from the United States of 53.39, which she herself set, and won the bronze medal in the women's 100-meter freestyle event;

Whereas, on August 16, 2008, Michael Phelps set an Olympic-record time of 50.58 and won the gold medal in the men's 100-meter butterfly event, tying 1972 Olympian Mark Spitz for the most gold medals, 7, won by an individual in a single Olympic Games;

Whereas, on August 16, 2008, Margaret Hoelzer won the silver medal in the women's 200-meter backstroke event;

Whereas, on August 17, 2008, Brendan Hansen of Havertown, Pennsylvania, Aaron Peirsol, Michael Phelps, and Jason Lezak set a world-record time of 3:29.34 and won the gold medal in the men's 400-meter medley relay event;

Whereas, on August 17, 2008, Dara Torres set a record time for athletes from the United States of 24.07 and won the silver medal in the women's 50-meter freestyle event;

Whereas Dara Torres then teamed with Natalie Coughlin, Rebecca Soni, and Christine Magnuson to set a record time for athletes from the United States of 3:53.30 and won the silver medal in the women's 400-meter medley relay event;

Whereas Caroline Burckle, Larsen Jensen, and Allison Schmitt each won 1 bronze medal;

Whereas Matt Grevers, Kara Lynn Joyce, and Lacey Nymeyer each won 1 silver medal;

Whereas Ricky Berens, Brendan Hansen, Cullen Jones, and Garrett Weber-Gale each won 1 gold medal;

Whereas Margaret Hoelzer won 1 silver medal and 1 bronze medal;

Whereas Christine Magnuson won 2 silver medals;

Whereas Peter Vanderkaay won 1 gold medal and 1 bronze medal;

Whereas Katie Hoff won 1 silver medal and 2 bronze medals;

Whereas Jason Lezak won 2 gold medals and 1 bronze medal;

Whereas Aaron Peirsol won 2 gold medals and 1 silver medal;

Whereas Rebecca Soni won 1 gold medal and 2 silver medals;

Whereas Ryan Lochte won 2 gold medals and 2 bronze medals;

Whereas Dara Torres—

(1) is the first swimmer from the United States to compete in 5 Olympic Games, representing the United States in the Summer

Olympic Games of 1984, 1988, 1992, 2000, and 2008;

(2) won 5 medals at the 2000 Summer Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia, as the oldest member of the women's swimming team at the age of 33;

(3) at the age of 41 is the oldest member of the women's team by 15 years;

(4) won the silver medal in all 3 events in which she competed in the 2008 Summer Olympic Games;

(5) has won 12 Olympic medals, including 4 gold medals, 4 silver medals, and 4 bronze medals, over the course of her career;

(6) has won at least 1 medal in each of the 5 Olympic Games in which she has competed, making her 1 of only a handful of Olympians to earn medals in 5 different Olympic Games;

Whereas Natalie Coughlin won 1 gold medal, 2 silver medals, and 3 bronze medals, becoming the first female athlete from the United States to win 6 medals in 1 year's Olympic Games, breaking the record of 5 medals she tied in the 2004 Summer Olympic Games;

Whereas Michael Phelps has trained under the expert tutelage of coach Bob Bowman for 12 years, first at the North Baltimore Aquatic Club and more recently at the University of Michigan;

Whereas, during the awards ceremony for the men's 400-meter medley relay event, the Fédération Internationale de Natation, the international governing body of swimming, diving, water polo, synchronized swimming, and open water swimming, honored Michael Phelps for his historic accomplishment of—

(1) setting 7 world records and 1 Olympic record;

(2) winning 8 gold medals, the most ever by an individual athlete in a single Olympic Games; and

(3) winning 14 gold medals over the course of his Olympic career, another record for an individual athlete at the Olympic Games;

Whereas Michael Phelps's Olympic performance places him in the pantheon of the greatest athletes of all time; and

Whereas the United States Olympic Swimming Team collectively won 31 medals, including 12 gold medals, 9 silver medals, and 10 bronze medals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Michael Phelps, Natalie Coughlin, Ryan Lochte, Dara Torres, Katie Hoff, Jason Lezak, Aaron Peirsol, Rebecca Soni, and the other members of the United States Olympic Swimming Team for their record-breaking performances and commends them for their dedication, courage, and sportsmanship, and for the exemplary way in which they represented the United States of America while competing in Beijing, China;

(2) congratulates and commends for their devotion, professionalism, and tireless advocacy on behalf of the team and the sport of swimming generally—

(A) National Team Head Coach Mark Schubert;

(B) Head Men's Coach Eddie Reese;

(C) Head Women's Coach Jack Bauerle;

(D) Assistant Coaches Bob Bowman, Gregg Troy, Frank Busch, Teri McKeever, Paul Yetter, and Sean Hutchison;

(E) Men's and Women's Open Water Head Coaches John Dussliere and Bill Rose;

(F) Open Water Chief of Mission Paul Asmuth; and

(G) the staff of the United States Olympic Swimming Team; and

(3) requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit enrolled copies of this resolution to—

(A) the United States Olympic Swimming Team at the national headquarters of USA Swimming in Colorado Springs, Colorado; and

(B) Michael Phelps and the North Baltimore Aquatic Club in Baltimore, Maryland,

in honor of Michael Phelps's singular, historic, and inspirational achievement.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—HOUSE MEASURES

Mr. WEBB. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following items en bloc: H.R. 6847, H.R. 6874, H.R. 6681, H.R. 6338, H.R. 6229, H.R. 6199, H.R. 3511, which are at the desk.

I ask unanimous consent the bills be read a third time and passed en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

FIRST LIEUTENANT NOAH HARRIS ELLIJAY POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 6847) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 Industrial Boulevard in Ellijay, Georgia, as the "First Lieutenant Noah Harris Ellijay Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

LANCE CORPORAL ERIC PAUL VALDEPENAS POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 6874) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 156 Taunton Avenue in Seekonk, Massachusetts, as the "Lance Corporal Eric Paul Valdepenas Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

JACOB M. LOWELL POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 6681) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 Vine Street in New Lenox, Illinois, as the "Jacob M. Lowell Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

ARMY SPC DANIEL AGAMI POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 6338) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4233 West Hillsboro Boulevard in Coconut Creek, Florida, as the "Army SPC Daniel Agami Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

MAYOR WILLIAM "BILL" SAND- BERG POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 6229) to designate the facility of the United States Postal

Service located at 2523 7th Avenue East in North Saint Paul, Minnesota, as the "Mayor William 'Bill' Sandberg Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

KENNETH PETER ZEBROWSKI POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 6199) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 245 North Main Street in New City, New York, as the "Kenneth Peter Zebrowski Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

MURPHY A. TANNEHILL POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 3511) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2150 East Hardtner Drive in Urania, Louisiana, as the "Murphy A. Tannehill Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

COMMENDING BARTER THEATRE

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 416, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 416) commending the Barter Theatre on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of a resolution honoring a longstanding landmark of Virginia's southwest, Barter Theatre. Located in Abingdon, VA, Barter Theatre first opened in June of 1933 and remains open to this day, having never closed its doors in its 75 years of history.

The roots of Barter Theatre are found in what it calls "a unique beginning," during a time in our Nation's history when many Americans, including Virginians, were focused on financial woes. It was the Great Depression, and a young man named Robert Porterfield was inspired by providing theater tickets to the many and not just to those who could afford them. It was the idea of bartering goods for services that served as the foundation for this successful endeavor and earned Porterfield's theater its name.

By trading goods for theater tickets, Porterfield was able to fill the seats of his theater. The price of admission was 40 cents, but if you had no money to spare, you could bring the equivalent in produce. Whether it was vegetables, dairy products, or a chicken, if it was worth 40 cents, it was worth entrance.

The idea of bartering goods for services is by no means a unique idea, but it is an idea that allowed many Virginians the opportunity to enjoy the arts. The idea of trading "ham for Hamlet," as Barter Theatre calls it, was a success, a success that allowed the theater to endure to today.

In 1946, the Virginia General Assembly designated Barter Theatre as the State Theatre of Virginia, the first theater in the Commonwealth of Virginia to receive this distinction, and rightly so. The excellence of Barter reaches far beyond the lengthy list of famous actors who have graced its stage throughout its years and touches more on its efforts to enrich and enhance the culture of our Commonwealth.

The impact of this historic theater does not go unnoticed in southwest Virginia, as it has continually aimed to increase levels of artistic development in the region. Each year, Barter Theatre's Appalachian Festival of Plays and Playwrights showcases and honors Appalachian history and culture for all to see upon its stage. I also want to recognize the efforts of Barter Theatre as they continue educational outreach programs to Virginia's youth. Several programs, such as the Young Playwrights Festival, the Internet Distance Learning Program, the Student Matinee Program, and the theatre's touring company, are in place and continue to foster creativity through playwriting and theatrical performances.

I must note that Barter Theatre remains true to its humble beginnings and pays homage to its history. At least one performance a year celebrates the Barter heritage by accepting donations for an area food bank as the price of admission. An endeavor rooted in the ideals of community continues to give back to that community today.

I am pleased by the passage of H. Con. Res. 416, and I thank my colleagues in joining me in support of this resolution.

Mr. WEBB. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 416) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

CELEBRATE SAFE COMMUNITIES

Mr. WEBB. I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 662 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 662) raising the awareness of the need for crime prevention in communities across the country and des-

ignating the week of October 2, 2008, through October 4, 2008, as "Celebrate Safe Communities" week.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. WEBB. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 662) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 662

Whereas communities across the country face localized increases in violence and other crime;

Whereas local law enforcement and community partnerships are an effective tool for preventing crime and addressing the fear of crime;

Whereas the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) are leading national resources that provide community safety and crime prevention tools tested and valued by local law enforcement agencies and communities nationwide;

Whereas the NSA and the NCPC have joined together to create the "Celebrate Safe Communities" initiative in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice;

Whereas Celebrate Safe Communities will be launched the 1st week of October 2008 to help kick off recognition of October as Crime Prevention Month;

Whereas Celebrate Safe Communities is designed to help local communities highlight the importance of residents and law enforcement working together to keep communities safe places to live, learn, work, and play;

Whereas Celebrate Safe Communities will enhance the public awareness of vital crime prevention and safety messages and motivate Americans of all ages to learn what they can do to stay safe from crime;

Whereas Celebrate Safe Communities will help promote year-round support for locally based and law enforcement-led community safety initiatives that help keep families, neighborhoods, schools, and businesses safe from crime; and

Whereas the week of October 2, 2008, through October 4, 2008, is an appropriate week to designate as "Celebrate Safe Communities" week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of October 2, 2008, through October 4, 2008, as "Celebrate Safe Communities" week;

(2) commends the efforts of the thousands of local law enforcement agencies and their countless community partners who are educating and engaging residents of all ages in the fight against crime;

(3) asks communities across the country to consider how the Celebrate Safe Communities initiative can help them highlight local successes in the fight against crime; and

(4) encourages the National Sheriffs' Association and the National Crime Prevention Council to continue to promote, during Celebrate Safe Communities week and year-round, individual and collective action in collaboration with law enforcement and other supporting local agencies to reduce crime and build safer communities throughout the United States.